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important influence upon the development of Anglo-Saxon verse.

The concluding paper upon *Beowulf*, which perhaps in concession to its importance Mr. Furst styles "The Oldest English Poem," provides an abstract of the story with such explanatory material in regard to the time and place of its composition and the various conditions determining the character of the early epic, as may enable the student to read the poem with better understanding and increased enjoyment.¹

A feature worth noting of these essays is the care displayed in respect to the citation of approved critical authorities. Mr. Furst has been almost too assiduous in this regard, if that were possible, but they are introduced skilfully in such a way that the essays in no case fail to convey a distinctly personal and individual impression. The volume will undoubtedly be welcomed by those who listened to the papers when they were delivered as lectures, and by reaching a larger audience in their present form will, it may be hoped, perpetuate and extend the influence which it was the aim and inspiration of those lectures to exert toward winning the student and general reader to unfamiliar fields of English literature, and literatures related to it.

CLARENCE G. CHILD.

University of Pennsylvania.

CORRESPONDENCE.

TOMAR LAS DE VILLADIEGO.

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES,

SIRS:—In the *Notes*, Vol. xiv, columns 516-517, Dr. Charles Carroll Marden publishes an interesting note upon the colloquial Spanish expression *tomar calzas de Villadiego* which, as far as known, occurs for the first time in the

¹ The author desires the insertion of a note in connection with this review to the effect that he

"regrets not having noticed that in this concluding paper, during its years of growth and revision as a lecture, the marks of several quotations from Mr. Stopford Brooke's *Early English Literature* had become neglected."

Celestina (Act xii.) "The origin of the expression," he says, "is an unsettled problem."

An article¹ by Benito Mas y Prat giving a satisfactory theory of the origin and history of this phrase was published in the *Almanaque de la Ilustración* for 1890. Its substance is as follows.

The origin of the expression is historical. During the thirteenth century the persecutions of the Jews reached such a pitch of barbarity, that Ferdinand III., not wishing to break entirely with this rich and prosperous people, took measures for their protection. By a privilege granted in 1223, and given in full by Benito Mas as found in the *Memorias para la historia del santo Rey*,² he took under his protection the Jews of Villadiego near Burgos.

Some years prior to the granting of this privilege, the Lateran Council, for the better separation of the two races, had decreed that the Jews should wear garments distinct in form and color from those of the Christians. This distinguishing color was probably yellow, as that had been recommended for this purpose in the Bull of Paul IV.

Now the *Celestina* says definitely that the *calzas de Villadiego* were to be taken at the first sound of alarm. "Apercíbete á la primera voz que oyeres á tomar calzas de Villadiego." This advice would fit admirably the case of those Jews who, living in Burgos and wearing in spite of the regulations the ordinary clothing of the Castilians, were suddenly obliged to flee from impending persecution. In such an emergency they could dress themselves in the garments that showed them to be protected by the King's privilege and retire for safety to Villadiego.

The expression as found in the *Celestina* must therefore be construed as meaning originally: "to get under cover, to seek shelter;" later it was often used, as it is at the present time, to mean: "to leave hastily," "to run like forty."

CAROLINE B. BOURLAND.

Bryn Mawr College.

¹ Not mentioned by Vñaza, *Biblioteca histórica de la filología castellana*, 1893.

² Compiled by Burriel (see Amador de los Ríos, *Hist. Crit. de la Lit. Esp.*, Vol. iii. p. 435, note 1). The original privilege seems still to exist (see Amador de los Ríos, *Hist. de los Judíos en España*, Vol. i. p. 357, note 1).